N-1266

SECRET

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. BR. REGISTRY
No N. 1266 (C)
Date 5/12/41

Section 1, Special Br. Station. File No. Date December 4, 1941.

SUBJECT: R. H. Kehrweyn - Application for Licence to carry firearms.

R. H. Kehrweyn, Austrian, until recently holding a German Passport, was born at Vienna on May 19th, 1894.

S.M.P. records contain no reference to this person. The following is a brief account of his life as told by him to a member of the Special Branch.

In 1917, during the Great War, he was a Lieutenant in the Austrian Army fighting on the Russian border and was captured by the Russians. He spent a year in a Siberian prison camp but was released when the Armistice was signed. He made his way to Shanghai and after a few days proceeded to America. Being an Engineer by profession and interested in Aviation, then more or less in its infancy, he eventually succeeded in obtaining employment at various aircraft firms and later became a pilot. After about four years at this he worked at the Ford Plant in Detroit for one year. Following this he was engaged by Pan-American Airways and the American Aircraft Corporation as a "Blind-flying Instructor." He married an American girl in 1922 and has a daughter now aged about eighteen. Whilst employed with the American Aircraft Corporation he flew all over South America, Europe and parts of Asia.

In 1940, he went with his daughter to Italy to have her voice trained. Whilst in Genoa, his permit to return to the U.S.A. was cancelled by the U. S. Immigration Authorities. After the present European War started, Germans leaving the U.S.A. were not allowed

I/ I see no sign of a pistol and we have none for sale.
II/ Without recommendation from his C.G. no [illegible] will issue

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to return normally but had to re-apply for permission to enter on the quota.

Kehrweyn then went to Berlin and whilst there was requested by the Douglas Aircraft Co. in the U.S. to fly a passenger plane from Berlin to Athens. This plane actually belonged to the Norwegian Airways but was detained by the German Authorities when Norway was invaded by the Nazis. With the assistance of a Nazi lawyer, Kehrweyn succeeded in obtaining the release of the aircraft and flew it to Athens where he handed it over to Greek Airways.

Prior to leaving Berlin, he was made to sign papers agreeing to return after the completion of his mission in Athens. He failed to return however and instead made his way by boat and train to Shanghai via Turkey, Rumania, Bessarabia, Russia and Siberia. He arrived in Shanghai in November 1940 and after reporting to the local German Consul he was instructed to work for the Japanese Army in Shanghai as a demonstrator of various American flying devices of which, by his experience, he had full knowledge. He was also employed as a "Blind-flying" instructor. Kehrweyn stated that he did this work under Nazi pressure because the local German Consul knew of his failure to return to Berlin from Athens. He insisted, however, on his engagement with the Japanese Army being carried out on a commercial basis and whilst so employed succeeded in amassing G$22,000. In July 1941 he went to Japan in the Japanese Courier Service and flew a plane regularly between Tokyo and

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Bangkok. This plane, he states, was of German make but carried Japanese insignia.

Early in November 1941, whilst in Japan he became apprehensive of the possibility that he would be forced to sail on one of the raiders which have been outfitted in Japan for the German Navy. Each of these raiders, Kehrweyn states, carries a small plane and he thought it likely that he would be appointed as pilot to one of these planes.

Pleading sickness and the need for first-class medical treatment, he prevailed upon the Japanese Authorities to allow him to proceed to Shanghai. Upon arrival here he stayed at the Broadway Mansions, but whilst entertaining a lady one night and attempting to retrieve her necklace which had fallen behind a couch, he discovered a hidden microphone, obviously placed there by the Japanese. He accordingly moved to his present address at 619 Hart Road at the corner of Wuting Road.

The local Nazi officials have insisted on Kehrweyn returning to Japan, reminding him that he is a deserter from the Army due to his failure to go back to Berlin from Athens. As Kehrweyn refuses to return to Japan, the German Consul here has taken away his passport.

Kehrweyn states that he still has G.$22,000 in cash which he, because of the freezing orders, is unable to deposit in any bank. This money is kept at 619 Hart Road but he defies anyone to succeed in locating it.

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Since his return to Shanghai, Kehrweyn states that he has given certain information to Commanders Woolley and Sheppard of the British Naval Office. He has asked that these two names be not mentioned in any Police reports as he believes that the Nazis have heard of this and in consequence he is being followed wherever he goes and his life is in jeopardy. Hence this application for a firearms permit.

Commander Woolley was interviewed by a member of the Special Branch and it was verified that Kehrweyn had offered the British Naval Authorities certain information. This had proved worthless however and the British Authorities place little credence on Kehrweyn's information and have no faith in the man who is known to them as a dangerous person capable of double-crossing anyone with whom he has dealings.

Commander Woolley stated that it is obvious that Kehrweyn is out of favour with the Nazis and the Japanese but definitely not because of any information imparted by Kehrweyn to the British Naval Authorities. Commander Woolley thought it more likely that it is because of some commercial transaction in which Kehrweyn has come out best.

Although Kehrweyn has stated at Headquarters that he has no firearm, Commander Woolley is certain that he saw Kehrweyn with a pistol and a "Black-jack" both of which he took no trouble to conceal.

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At Headquarters, Kehrweyn has produced a "Black-jack" which he states is his sole protection.

D. S. I.

A.C. (Special Branch)